



## **Regional Service Council Minutes**

### **Region # 13**

**Meeting Date:** September 15, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Greene County DCS/DFR

#### **Council Members Present:**

Cami Terry, Lawrence County DCS FCM II; Debbie Dailey, Brown/Owen County Director; Stephanie Raventos, Owen County Supervisor; Angie Baugh, Owen County Foster Parent; William Walker, Regional Manager; Beverly Haynes, Greene County CASA Director; Cheri Slover, Greene County DCS Acting Director

#### **Council Members Absent:**

Judge Erik Allen, Greene County Circuit Court; Judge Andrea McCord, Lawrence County Court;; Judge David Welch, Monroe County Court; Lindsey Smith, Monroe County Director

#### **Others In Attendance:**

Heather Perkins, Greene County FCM

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 10:00 a.m.

1. First Order of Business: **Update on status of Community Partnership for Child Safety**

Mr. Walker met with John Ireland last Friday and specifically told him the expectation of what the agency is expected to do with Community Partners. Mr. Ireland will be meeting with the counties in Region 13 to gather information on the resources available for each individual county. Mr. Ireland is going to put together a regional plan that will identify by county and then by region. Mr. Ireland is supposed to have a strategic plan. Mike Singleton is the contact person in the agency that will be working with Region 13.

## 2. Second Order of Business: **Foster Home Plan for Region**

Mr. Walker approached the RSC members for feedback regarding a plan for foster homes in Region 13. Mr. Walker stated that there is a variation of what different counties expect of foster parents. Obviously we have to protect the safety of children in foster homes but we don't want to hinder the foster parents. Mr. Walker wants a plan set in place so there is consistency with all foster homes within the region.

Mr. Walker thinks the key part is the training and being upfront and honest of issues that foster parents may be faced with when a child is placed in their home. A Committee to develop a Regional Bill wants to set up a managed team for foster parents that are in region 13 to go through. Need to set up a Foster Parent Protocol will be established. The committee will be a committee which should consist of a foster parent from each county within the region, CASA from each county within the region and some people from the foster parent liaison from each county DCS Offices within the region. Heather Perkins and Debbie Dailey will take the lead on would be willing to work with this project.

CPR Training is sometimes an issue for foster parents. It can be 6 to 8 weeks for foster parents to be able to complete the CPR which holds up the licensing process. It would be good to have someone in the Region that would be able to provide CPR training more often so foster parents would not be held up on completing their licensing. Mr. Walker said it may be possible to purchase the CPR equipment and have someone within the region be certified to provide the training for our foster parents.

Concerns regarding foster parent training was also mentioned. Some trainings are pushing too much information in one training day. Afraid that people are not getting the information since the trainings are so long and so much information is put into those days.

Issues were brought up regarding relative homes. It was stated that it would be good to have more guidelines for relative homes regarding: criminal checks, cps checks, child care, ect.

Financial matters regarding foster parents were also discussed. Clothing is a big question for people. Judge Payne set the amount per child at \$400 regardless of the age of the child for a one time expense. Some children grow extremely fast and the cost of clothes is very expensive. Another issue is school expenses: school pictures, school activities, supplies, ect. More

foster parents are getting children involved in sports and different activities to ensure foster children can have a chance to lead a more normal life.

**3. Third Order of Business: Approval of Grants**

Bill goes over the budget/tax levy handout with everyone present.

Cheri Slover, Greene County DCS Supervisor, presented grants to the RSC Counsel. A copy of each grant was passed out to each member. All grants presented were approved by the RSC Counsel.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:**

November 17, 2006

Greene County DFR/DCS Office

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 12:00 p.m.